smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY
05.26.21
Volume 20 Issue 165

Undercover Video
A consumer was unable to recycle her cans.
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Hiding History
Does covering the City Hall Mural stifle conversation?
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City considers revenue bonds to fund water projects



Brennon Dixson

WATER: Staff concluded bonds would be cheaper than a loan.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The City of Santa Monica could issue revenue bonds that will allow officials to continue a number of water sustainability projects in the wake of an $84 million funding gap.

In 2018, Santa Monica City Council approved a Sustainable Water Master Plan (SWMP) Update in an effort to establish a diverse, sustainable and drought-resilient local water supply. At the time, city leaders believed they would be able to stop importing water from the Metropolitan Water

SEE **WATER** PAGE 7

California and US agree to allow big offshore wind farms

BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

California and the U.S. government announced an agreement Tuesday to open up areas off the state's central and northern coasts to the first commercial wind energy farms on the Pacific Coast.

The pact that would float hundreds of turbines off the coast of Morro Bay and Humboldt Bay was touted as a breakthrough to eventually power 1.6 million homes and help the state and federal government reach ambitious climate change goals through clean energy production.

"California, as we all know, has a world class offshore wind resource, and it can play a major role in helping to accelerate California's and the nation's transition to clean energy," National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy said.

The plan includes floating 380 windmills across a nearly 400-square-mile expanse of sea 20 miles northwest of Morro Bay.

SEE **WIND** PAGE 11

LA's unhoused population plagued by an epidemic of mental illness

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer



Courtesy photo

HEALTH: Medical care is adapting to the mental health crisis.

While the deadly pandemic recedes, a more insidious epidemic continues to spread unabated on the streets of LA — that of mental illness.

Climbing rates of mental illness are fueling and exacerbating the City's homelessness crisis.

With the problem only worsening under the isolation and financial pressure of the pandemic, local organizations are realizing it needs to be tackled with the same vigor and resources as physical diseases.

UCLA Health, the largest provider of mental health services in West LA, is sounding the alarm and seeking to scale up their programming. On Thursday at 6 p.m. they are live streaming a "We Shine Together" benefit concert to fundraise for an expansion of their inpatient and outpatient mental health care.

The event will feature performances by John Legend, Black Pumas and Joy Oladokun who will each speak on their experiences dealing with mental health.

Eric Burton of Black Pumas knows firsthand the toll that economic hardship can take on one's mental wellbeing. When he was in his twenties and his mother fell ill, he would take two trains and two buses to come busk on the Santa Monica Pier for money. While Burton was able to pull himself and his family up through hard work and talent, many are not as fortunate.

With a shrinking social safety net, a growing number of Californians end up living on the streets every year. In Santa Monica, the unhoused population is becoming increasingly characterized by severe mental illness.

"We know mental health challenges are a major driver for homelessness," said John Maceri, CEO of the People Concern, Santa Monica's largest homeless services provider. "We've seen that increase over the years and not just in the last year of the pandemic. We're seeing a lot more serious and untreated persistent mental illness."

Some people become homeless due to severe mental health conditions such as bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. Others fall into homelessness and subsequently develop mental illnesses from the trauma of life on the street, which makes it harder for them to stabilize and get help.

According to Maceri, around 90 percent of chronically homeless individuals are struggling with some form of mental illness.

Ulandsey Peterson is a client at the People Concern's Turning Point interim housing facility and has grappled with serious depression his entire life. He is an industrious, intelligent and compassionate man, who started his career repairing computer systems for the US Army.

Peterson has been in and out of homelessness several times several times in his life. While he has sought therapy for his depression for many years, he refused to take any medication for decades.

"I was very resistant to the medication. I didn't want to take any risk whatsoever of being hooked on anything," said Peterson, explaining that this fear comes from seeing "what drugs have done to the black community, specifically opioids

SEE **MENTAL** PAGE 11



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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom

SUBJECT: 20ENT-0236 (Text Amendment)
20ENT-0237 (Conditional Use Permit to amend existing 96CUP-009)
21ENT-0090 (Conditional Use Permit to open existing hotel restaurant to the general public)
849 Ocean Avenue
APPLICANT: OCBSM Owner LLC
PROPERTY OWNER: OCBSM Owner LLC

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

The applicant is requesting approvals of two Conditional Use Permits to provide alcohol and meal services to the general public offered by the Oceana Hotel's existing onsite restaurant. These services are currently limited only to hotel guests and their visitors. Conditional Use Permit 21ENT-0090 seeks to open the Oceana Hotel's existing restaurant to the general public within established indoor and outdoor dining facilities on the hotel property. Conditional Use Permit 20ENT-0237 seeks to amend the hotel's existing Conditional Use Permit 96CUP-009 associated with the hotel's existing ABC Type 70 alcohol license (On-Sale General-Restrictive Service) to provide alcohol service to the general public in conjunction with the hotel's full-service restaurant meal service.

The proposed project requires modifications to land use regulations contained in Article 9 of the Municipal Code. Therefore, an application to amend the Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) will also be considered by the Commission for formulation of a recommendation to the City Council. Text Amendment 20ENT-0236 seeks to amend SMMC Section 9.08 (Multi-Unit Residential Districts), specifically SMMC Section 9.08.020 – Land Use Regulations to establish a Conditional Use Permit requirement for an existing legal, non-conforming hotel restaurant located within the R2 and R3 zoning districts to request approval to provide meal service to the general public provided that certain criteria are met. The Oceana Hotel is located in the R3 (Medium Density Residential) Zoning District.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021 AT 5:30 PM** (continued from May 19, 2021)

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Planning Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal but participants may also join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/rztxzaqd or by dialing in at 1(415) 466-7000 (PIN: 2908357 #).

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by pre-registering on the link provided on the posted online agenda no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item.

Address your comments to: Rathar Duong, Associate Planner
Re: 20ENT-0236, 20ENT-0237, and 21ENT-0090

ACCOMODATIONS
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Rathar Duong at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at rathar.duong@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

Schools try pep-rally tactics to get students vaccinated

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

A growing number of public schools are using mascots, food trucks and prize giveaways to create a pep-rally atmosphere aimed at encouraging students to get vaccinated against the coronavirus before summer vacation.

Districts from California to Michigan are offering free prom tickets and deploying mobile vaccination teams to schools to inoculate students 12 and up so everyone can return to classrooms in the fall. They are also enlisting students who have gotten shots to press their friends to do the same.

Officials are concerned that once school lets out, it will be even tougher to get enough teens vaccinated in time to guarantee widespread immunity on campuses.

The massive effort has just gotten underway because it was only two weeks ago that federal regulators authorized the Pfizer vaccine for children 12 to 15. Moderna said Tuesday that its COVID-19 vaccine strongly protects kids as young as 12, a step that could put it on track to become the second option for that age group in the U.S. Younger children are not yet eligible.

So far, about 14% of the nation's 15 million kids ages 12 to 15 have received their first shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Among 7.5 million teens ages 16 and 17, that number goes up to 34%, and about 22% have had both shots, according to the latest figures released Monday. The doses are scheduled about three weeks apart.

There are many challenges.

Depending on the state and even county, minors may be required to have a parent present to get the shot. Some parents may not be able to get away from work to do that. Others are unsure about allowing their kids to get a vaccine that only was approved for emergency use.

Protests have popped up outside schools offering the vaccine, discouraging kids who may already be nervous.

Mission Bay High School in San Diego provides an example of the mixed reaction among students.

"I'm not getting it," said Tatum Merrill, 14, standing with friends outside a mobile vaccine clinic at the school. "It was developed too fast and is kind of sketchy. And I feel like the number of COVID cases is dying down so if everybody else has it, there may not be a need for me to have it."

Her friend Brandon Cheeks, 15, said he wants the vaccine, but his mother is unsure. In the meantime, another 15-year-old, Laura Pilger, said she feels safer being back in school knowing that she and everyone she knows is vaccinated.

"A woman showed up and was passing out flyers that said 'your body, your choice' but the message was not very welcomed," Pilger said. "Why wouldn't you want to get the vaccine?"

While hundreds of colleges across the country are requiring students to have proof of vaccination to return to campus, it's unlikely that K-12 public schools will do the same this fall. It's unclear whether schools can legally require a vaccine approved under an emergency-use authorization to immediately address the pandemic.

Instead, public schools are trying to entice students to get the shots by making the experience festive while sending flyers home to families to address the vaccine's safety.

In suburban Detroit, students in the Southfield district who show proof of vaccination will get a free ticket to the senior prom worth $80. The incentive drew protesters who said awarding the vaccinated could lead to harassment of students who haven't gotten shots.

"We are not separating or segregating students who choose not to receive the vaccine or do receive the vaccine," Southfield Superintendent Jennifer Green said. "We simply want to provide our students an opportunity to celebrate this milestone in their life."

The idea won applause from Dr. Howard Taras, a University of California San Diego pediatrician who consults with districts about health safety. He is also the in-house physician for the San Diego Unified School District, the second-largest in California with about 120,000 students. It has been hosting vaccine clinics at schools in communities with low vaccination rates.

The district also took part in a public service announcement with local teens who say, "We'll be getting the vaccine, now it's your turn."

"I think anything that is creating buzz helps," Taras said, explaining that vaccinating at schools has the added benefit of generating peer pressure.

The virus has spread more rapidly among teens than younger children. "But with a large portion immunized, there is much less chance of it spreading in the classrooms, on buses," Taras said.

And more students may want to return to classrooms as a result.

While most California public schools reopened in April, fewer than half of students resumed in-person learning, according to an analysis by the nonprofit EdSource.

Many continued with online learning, while some dropped out altogether or went to private schools. Public school enrollment dropped steeply in the nation's most populous state, falling by more than 160,000 this school year, according to the California Department of Education.

The Los Angeles Unified School District, the largest in California with about 600,000 students, plans to have a mobile vaccination team visit every middle and high school campus at least once before the school year ends June 11. The events will feature food trucks and music.

Superintendent Austin Beutner recently appeared with Wilson High School's "Mighty Mule" mascot to encourage students to roll up their sleeves. He said the district is offering paid leave for district employees to get their children inoculated. Schools where

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 4

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 275 CALLS ON MAY 24

Battery Now 4th St / Hollister Ave 12:36 a.m.
Loud Music 1900blk Ocean Way 3:19 a.m.
Person With A Gun 00blk Pico Blvd 4:43 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1800blk Delaware Ave 4:44 a.m.
Loud Music 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 5:35 a.m.
Burglary Report 400blk Broadway 6:13 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1100blk Princeton St 6:14 a.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 1100blk 9th St 6:30 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 7th St / Olympic Blvd W 6:37 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 2400blk 28th St 6:50 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1900blk 6th St 7:23 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk 2nd St 7:26 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:33 a.m.
Loud Music 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:59 a.m.
Burglary Report 400blk Pico Blvd 8:08 a.m.
Expired Registration 1700blk Stanford St 8:24 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800blk 6th St 8:58 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1400blk Arizona Ave 9:13 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk Arizona Ave 9:30 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 700blk 4th St 9:33 a.m.
Encampment 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 9:33 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 1100blk 11th St 9:35 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1100blk 18th St 9:46 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1600blk Montana Ave 9:49 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 700blk Hill St 9:57 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 800blk San Vicente Blvd 10:10 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1700blk Hill St 10:11 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1100blk 21st St 10:28 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 2300blk 4th St 10:29 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk 20th St 10:33 a.m.
Encampment 800blk The Beach 10:35 a.m.
Found Property 1000blk 19th St 10:40 a.m.
Burglary Report 2700blk 6th St 10:47 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 11:00 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk Marine St 11:04 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 11:39 a.m.
Public Intoxication 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 11:40 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600blk Wellesley Dr 11:54 a.m.
Expired Registration 300blk 4th St 11:58 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 500blk Washington Ave 12:04 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk Ocean Ave 12:28 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 800blk Broadway 12:35 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 26th St 12:48 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1100blk Pico Blvd 1:00 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2700blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:00 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 1:16 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk 18th St 1:37 p.m.
Expired Registration 800blk Pearl St 1:49 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 18th St / Delaware Ave 1:50 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000blk Ocean Ave 1:52 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 800blk Wilshire Blvd 2:14 p.m.
Overdose 800blk 4th St 2:29 p.m.
Fight 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 2:35 p.m.
Death Investigation 1100blk 5th St 2:42 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1100blk Palisades Park 3:12 p.m.
Stalking Report 1500blk The Beach 3:13 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 3:16 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 800blk Palisades Park 3:25 p.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 1500blk 10th St 3:35 p.m.
Encampment 2800blk The Beach 3:39 p.m.
Loud Music 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:41 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 800blk Montana Ave 3:55 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Cloverfield Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 4:24 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 2nd St 4:27 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 4:30 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 400blk Ashland Ave 4:45 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1000blk 4th St 4:48 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1400blk Olympic Blvd 4:49 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Neilson Way / Pico Blvd 5:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 400blk Ashland Ave 5:20 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 5:24 p.m.
Injured Person 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:51 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 6:10 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 2500blk La Mesa Dr 6:12 p.m.
Panhandling 1400blk Broadway 6:21 p.m.
Identity Theft 300blk Olympic Dr 7:22 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1800blk 7th St 7:46 p.m.
Found Property 1500blk 2nd St 7:50 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public Princeton St / Wilshire Blvd 7:59 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2400blk Virginia Ave 7:59 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 8:06 p.m.
Death Investigation 1100blk 3rd St 8:30 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Ocean Ave 9:46 p.m.
Loud Music 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 9:51 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1100blk 2nd St 10:37 p.m.
Loud Music 300blk California Ave 10:38 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1900blk 19th St 10:51 p.m.
Loud Music 1500blk Berkeley St 11:19 p.m.
Party Complaint 1100blk 11th St 11:34 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 33 CALLS ON MAY 24

EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 1:48 a.m.
EMS 600blk Broadway 2:59 a.m.
EMS 900blk Pico Blvd 4:20 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 2nd St 7:28 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 7th St 8:19 a.m.
EMS 2300blk 4th St 8:21 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Urban Ave 8:59 a.m.
EMS 2500blk 21st St 11:35 a.m.
EMS 1500blk California Ave 11:48 a.m.
EMS 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:02 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk Beverley Ave 1:08 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 3000blk 3rd St 1:09 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 1:18 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Franklin St 1:59 p.m.
Fire Out Investigation 2400blk 28th St 2:13 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 5th St 2:21 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:16 p.m.
EMS 100blk Bay St 3:19 p.m.
Flooded Condition 500blk Hollister Ave 3:26 p.m.
Public Assist 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:44 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 800blk Montana Ave 3:55 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 4:02 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 4:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:46 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:49 p.m.
EMS 600blk Broadway 6:50 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 7:23 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 8:30 p.m.
EMS 2400blk 23rd St 8:34 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 2nd St 10:32 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Hill St 11:09 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1000blk Hill St 11:16 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:18 p.m.







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WINNER

Your column here

By Liza Tucker

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Video Shows West LA Senior Citizen Illegally Refused Bottle and Can CRV Deposit By Santa Monica Grocers Due To "Covid"

Nancy Hannickel, 75, a long-time resident of West Los Angeles, has bags of thousands of bottles and cans in her yard that carry a California Redemption Value (CRV) of a nickel or a dime. But she can't get those nickel and dime deposits refunded — anywhere in West LA.

Undercover video shot by Consumer Watchdog shows Hannickel being turned away from Santa Monica grocery stores legally required to take back and redeem her empties using the phony excuse of "Covid." Exemptions granted by Governor Gavin Newsom from store redemption expired last August and the Centers for Disease Control says Covid mainly spreads through droplets from person-to-person, not from touching surfaces. (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/food-and-COVID-19.html)

Not a single redemption center exists west of the 405 freeway and the grocery stores that are supposed to take back the empties are increasingly refusing to.

See the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn-2PKuNo_4

In the video, Hannickel urges support for California Senate Bill 38 that would require beverage companies to maintain accessible redemption centers and drop-off points. The bill is expected to be voted on by the full Senate the first week of June.

"I've had a hard time returning empty CRV recyclables to markets," said Hannickel. "'Cause nobody wants to accept it. Absolutely no place is available. The closest place to recycle and that is pretty much just for scrap value four miles and that's over in Culver City. To try to make a trip with 50 items is not cost effective in any way. That totals out to $2.50 and that doesn't even pay for the gasoline.

"So, I am very angry because it is frustrating and not worth my time but, darn it, there is a principle involved here. If they have taken my money as a deposit, I want it back. I want full value and not scrap value."

Hannickel started recycling decades ago. In 2000, She redeemed enough containers to collect $2,000 a year in CRV deposit refunds. She used the refunds for extra pocket money, paying for gas and meals out. In 2017 through 2019, as a wave of redemption centers closures hit, Hannickel saw her annual refunds drop to $1,200 as return options fizzled.

Neighbors turned to her out of frustration, giving their empties to her instead of putting them into recycling bins. She used to give CRV refunds back to their kids.

In 2020, as the pandemic hit, the rest of the redemption centers folded in her area. But the nearest grocery stores to her that are legally obligated to redeem containers refused to take back empties, she said.

The answer, says Hannickel, is SB 38. Introduced by Senator Bob Wieckowski, the bill would shift responsibility for the deposit system to the beverage industry and away from the state's recycling regulator CalRecycle that severely underpays redemption centers and overpays waste haulers that provide no container redemption.

"This system is broken. I cannot find a single place to turn in my bottles and cans for full value anywhere in West LA," Hannickel said. "We need to start over with Senate Bill 38. Senate Bill 38 puts the responsibility on the bottle makers to have and to fund the recycling centers. That is how it is working in the rest of the United States and the world.

"SB 38 will make certain that there will be a place for each of us to recover our deposit which was paid at the time we bought the beverage containers. Please support Senate Bill 38 so I can get these bottles and cans that have accumulated out of my backyard."

Consumer Watchdog reported the stores to the state's regulator CalRecycle.

The latest data from CalRecycle, the state regulator, shows that California's redemption rate is 57% — that is the third worst among the nation's ten bottle deposit states. The redemption rate is the rate at which consumers receive their bottle deposit back. The recycling rate, which includes the bottles and cans collected curbside, is 10% higher than the redemption rate.

Liza Tucker is a Consumer Advocate at Consumer Affairs.

VACCINE

FROM PAGE 2

more than 30% of students are vaccinated will each receive $5,000 for projects, and students can decide how the money is used.

The school-based clinics also help administer shots to hard-to-reach populations who feel more comfortable going to their neighborhood school instead of mass vaccination sites.

Maisha Cosby was motivated by a drive-thru clinic at the Washington School for Girls in Washington, D.C. She held her 12-year-old daughter Maya's hand as she got her shot. Then Cosby got hers.

"All my friends have gotten it and they're fine, and I'm ready for her to go back to school," Cosby said.

Associated Press writers Ed White in Detroit and Jacquelyn Martin in Washington contributed to this report.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

Cargo Handlers at LAX Arrested in Alleged Theft of Gold Bars

Two employees of a cargo handling company who worked at Los Angeles International Airport were arrested Tuesday pursuant to a federal grand jury indictment that charges them will stealing four gold bars that were part of a larger shipment going from Australia to New York.

Marlon Moody, 38, and Brian Benson, 35, both of South Los Angeles, were arrested without incident by special agents with the FBI. The two defendants are expected to make their initial appearances this afternoon in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles.

A two-count indictment filed Tuesday charges Moody and Benson with conspiracy and theft of interstate and foreign shipment.

The indictment alleges that both men worked for Alliance Ground International, a company that provided ground handling services at LAX. On the evening of April 22, 2020, a shipment of gold bars arrived at LAX on Singapore Airlines. A total of 2,000 gold bars, each weighing one kilogram and valued at approximately $56,000, were being shipped at the direction of a Canadian bank. During a stopover at LAX, the gold was offloaded and secured, but an inventory that evening showed one box containing 25 gold bars was missing.

Moody allegedly found the missing box of gold bars near the Singapore Airlines cargo warehouse on the morning of April 23, placed the box on a belt loader and drove that vehicle to a nearby location, where he removed four of the bars. Soon after, Benson arrived to pick up Moody in a company van, where they exchanged text messages about the gold bars because other employees were in the van. The two defendants later left the airport and went to a nearby parking lot, where Moody gave Benson one of the four gold bars, the indictment states.

The lost box with the 21 remaining gold bars was discovered by other cargo handlers later on April 23, and authorities began an investigation that ultimately led to Moody and Benson.

Moody gave one gold bar to a relative on May 4 "and directed the family member to exchange the gold bar for a vehicle and/or money," according to the indictment. Around this time, Moody buried the remaining two gold bars in the backyard of his residence.

The FBI recovered all four gold bars about two weeks after they went missing from LAX.

An indictment contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

If they were to be convicted of the two charges, Moody and Benson each would face a statutory maximum sentence of 15 years in federal prison.

The FBI, the Federal Air Marshal Service, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles Airport Police investigated this matter.

Assistant United States Attorneys J. Jamari Buxton of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section and Lyndsi C. Allsop of the General Crimes Section are prosecuting the case.

THOM MROZEK

Citywide

SMPD and PAL Host the Rick Crocker Challenge Run

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) will be joining the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) to host the Inaugural Rick Crocker Challenge, a 5K run/walk pairing the youth of our community with SMPD Officers. This event is in honor of fallen SMPD Officer and Marine Corps Reserve Major, Ricardo Crocker, who was killed by a rocket propelled grenade while on tour in Iraq on May 26, 2005. Previous to being redeployed to Iraq, Rick was assigned at PAL where he was a passionate advocate of programs which mentored PAL youth in their scholastic and outdoor activities.

Twenty-three children of our community will each be paired with a police officer, and together will run five laps around Memorial Park to complete the 5k.

What: PAL Rick Crocker Challenge – 5K Run
Who: PAL Youth and SMPD Officers
When: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 @ 4 p.m.
Where: Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL)– 1401 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, CA.

This event was created to raise funds for quality youth programs at PAL, and to provide another great opportunity for SMPD Officers to continue creating positive relationships with the most vulnerable youth of our community.

PAL is a city youth program that offers free afterschool programs to youth ages 6-17 years that live and/or go to school in Santa Monica. PAL's mission is to foster trust between youth and the men and women of the Santa Monica Police Department by providing educational, cultural, fitness and leadership programs and activities. Our hope for this event is to raise funds for programming and bring awareness to PAL.

LIEUTENANT RUDY FLORES

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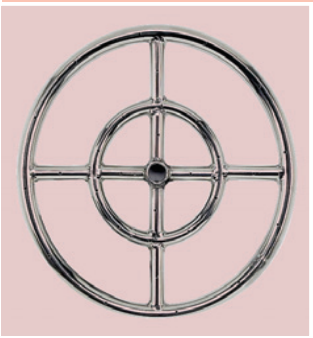








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Your column here

By Ruthann Lehrer

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hiding History at City Hall's Mural

City Council voted 6-1 on May 11th to cover the historic mural in City Hall as part of its efforts to eradicate racial injustice in Santa Monica. The mural depicts Native Americans at a natural spring and the arrival of a Spanish monk and soldier in the 18th century. It was created by renowned artist Stanton MacDonald-Wright who was Director of the Southern California Works Progress Administration, a program initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that provided federal grants for artists to create public art in public buildings for Depression-era economic recovery. Housed inside City Hall, a WPA project, the mural is part of a Santa Monica landmark.

As a history mural, there are indeed layered meanings, and implications about its subject. The mural shows two Native Americans kneeling by a natural spring, one drinking and the other with his hands in the water. The natural spring was the City's first source of water, and still exists today in a nature preserve restored and tended by Tongva/Gabrieleno tribal members at University High School. Standing opposite the Native Americans are a Franciscan monk and a Spanish conquistador. Based upon Father Crespi's diary of the Portola expedition of 1769, the scene represents the naming of Santa Monica.

The future subjugation of Native Americans may be implied by the positioning of the figures, and the mural evokes various phases of Santa Monica history, such as invasions of Spanish/Mexican conquerors and the Rancho period, when Native American lands were turned into large agricultural ranchos. California history has been rife with racial inequalities and social injustice, and the mural reflects this difficult history.

The Arts Commission was poised to organize public forums to discuss the mural's interpretation and how best to present it in its historical context while addressing racial injustice when the pandemic struck. The Commission is ready to do this again; however, with the shades pulled down and the mural obscured, it will be hard to have meaningful public engagement.

Rather than eliminate or cover the mural, what is needed are interpretative explanations alongside the City Hall artwork that place it in its historic context while engaging with issues of racial and social justice. The mural is an opportunity to educate our community about the original Native residents of the region, the founding of Santa Monica, the unfolding of California history in which Native Americans were decimated and how this history continues to impact our city and state. And so it's not only important to preserve the mural, but to use it as an educational tool in a civic space. Additionally, the City should be proactive in using our public arts program to create new works that gives voice to our under-represented communities, like the Belmar History + Art project at 4th and Pico.

If we are to tell the whole stories of our communities, then we must preserve and educate rather than erase or hide our history.

Ruthann Lehrer, Santa Monica Conservancy

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON FRIDAY, MAY 14 11:57 A.M.

Officers responded to a call of an Armed Robbery on the 2100 block of Main St. The reporting party relayed to Officers that he was working behind the counter when an individual came into the store refusing to wear a mask and smelling strongly of urine. The employee asked the individual to step outside and that he would bring him whatever items he was looking for. At this point, the individual brandished a knife and began waving it in the direction of the victim, who then ran back behind the counter and called the police. The Suspect then grabbed a basked and filled it with ice cream and walked away. The Suspect entered two other neighboring stores to take items. Officers were able to identify the Suspect and Brent Richard Hopkins was booked at SMPD Jail for 417(a)(1) PC Brandishing, 211 PC-Robbery, and 148.9(a) PC-Giving a false name to police.

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WATER

FROM PAGE 1

District of Southern California by 2023 and, to date, Santa Monica's Water Resources and Engineering Divisions have secured more than $20 million in grants and $75 million in low-interest loans to fund the suite of improvements totaling over $197 million.

However, a few projects remain underfunded as a direct impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why staff recently completed an analysis to determine if Santa Monica should move forward with a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan or the issuance of revenue bonds.

The City is one of 55 municipalities across the United States that was invited to apply for the WIFIA loan, which, along with grants and state revolving fund loans, could reduce the original projected average local water production costs by as much as 20%.

"A five percent water savings for Santa Monica would be approximately 500 to 600 acre-feet per year of water, which equates to approximately how much water is used by 1,400 single family homes or 4,500 multi-family units each year," the analysis states as it details additional long-term benefits of the loan like AMI smart water meters, more efficient billing and improved accuracy in meter reads.



Brennon Dixson

PROJECTS: Santa Monica has an established water infrastructure but more work is needed if the city wants to eliminate the need to import water.

After working with the Finance Department and the City's financial advisor, Public Resources Advisory Group, to conduct a comparison between the two options, the analysis states staff found the interest rates offered by the U.S. EPA and those for the revenue bonds are essentially the same. "However, the revenue bond does offer a few advantages over the U.S. EPA WIFIA loan that may indirectly provide time or cost savings to the City," according to the report.

One of the first advantages is a revenue bond could be secured almost six months sooner than the WIFIA loan.

"Given recent market volatility and rapid increase in interest rates, locking in the interest rate sooner would minimize the City's risk with respect to market volatility on interest rates," the analysis states, mentioning a WIFIA loan would force the City to adhere to federal procurement requirements and add another variable in market volatility risk that may impact project costs.

If the city were to secure a bond in July 2021, then construction on the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant Production Efficiency Enhancement and Expansion Project could begin in September 2021, which would likely save approximately $1.5 to $2 million in inflation cost compared to starting construction in February of 2022. City leaders would also have greater control over terms, timing, use of funds, and structure if it opts to issue bonds, compared to the WIFIA loan that would require the City to pay project costs upfront and then request reimbursement.

As a result, officials have deemed that a revenue bond is more favorable to the City since it allows the projects to stay on schedule and provide greater cash flow stability, the analysis concludes. "Staff is proceeding with preparing issuance of a revenue bond for the water self-sufficiency projects and will bring this item to Council for approval in July 2021."

Brennon@smdp.com



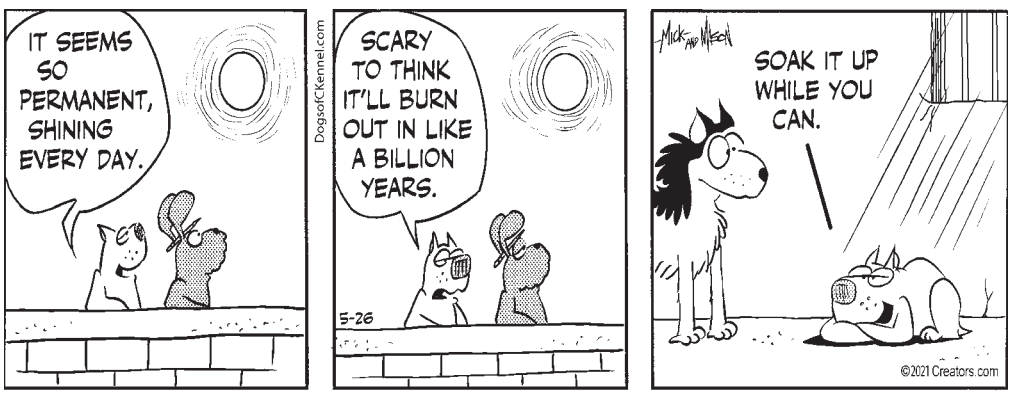
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



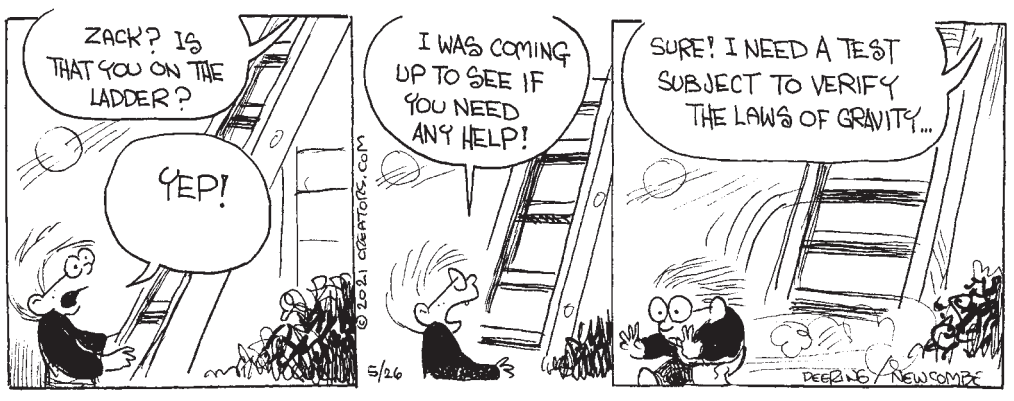
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



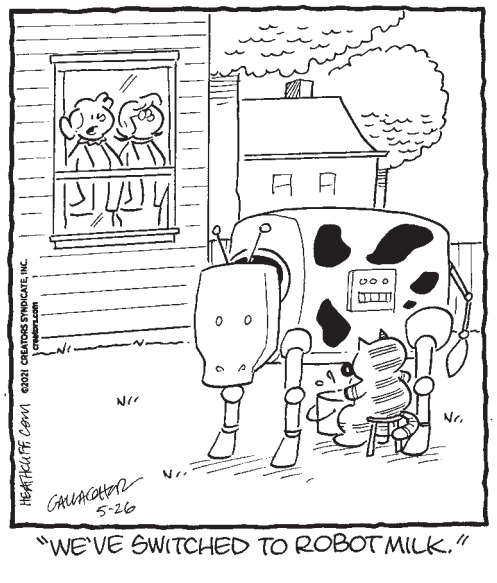
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



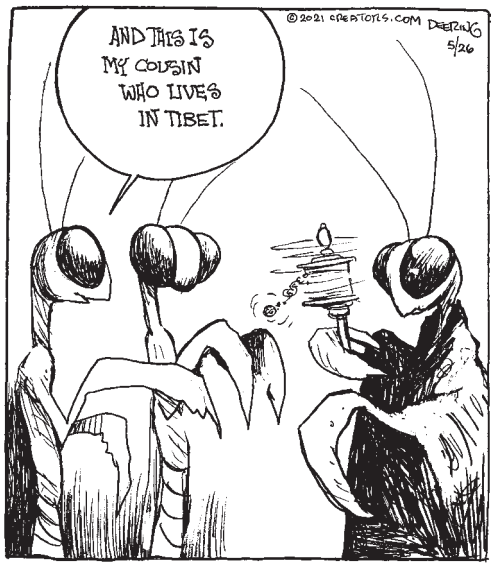
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.9°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Morning wind could be better (expect some crumble) but the early tide push helps the cause. Modest new SSW swell shows, minor NW swell mix blending in.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Slight E/SE wind may be an issue for some of the points but the early tide push helps. Modest SSW swell holds, smaller NW swell mix blending in with enough energy for ok shape at combo beachbreaks.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 66.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 55.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/05/26	Wed	04:10 AM	-1.57	L
2021/05/26	Wed	10:30 AM	4.01	H
2021/05/26	Wed	3:23 PM	1.53	L
2021/05/26	Wed	9:44 PM	6.89	H
2021/05/27	Thu	05:00 AM	-1.74	L
2021/05/27	Thu	11:28 AM	3.85	H
2021/05/27	Thu	4:06 PM	1.87	L
2021/05/27	Thu	10:27 PM	6.77	H
2021/05/28	Fri	05:53 AM	-1.67	L
2021/05/28	Fri	12:31 PM	3.70	H
2021/05/28	Fri	4:54 PM	2.20	L
2021/05/28	Fri	11:14 PM	6.41	H
2021/05/29	Sat	06:47 AM	-1.39	L
2021/05/29	Sat	1:38 PM	3.62	H
2021/05/29	Sat	5:49 PM	2.51	L
2021/05/30	Sun	12:07 AM	5.89	H
2021/05/30	Sun	07:45 AM	-0.98	L
2021/05/30	Sun	2:51 PM	3.65	H
2021/05/30	Sun	6:58 PM	2.77	L
2021/05/31	Mon	01:07 AM	5.26	H
2021/05/31	Mon	08:46 AM	-0.53	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/22
3 19 27 37 40
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 236 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/21
6 9 17 18 48
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/22
26 38 39 41 44
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 49 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/24
10 13 15 23 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/24
EVENING: 4 9 1
Draw Date: 5/24
MIDDAY: 9 8 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/24
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:44.58

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 26)

You'll get a remarkable boon within the five weeks surrounding your birthday. Save this abundance. An essential lesson of the year is about taking up your own side. Though selflessness is virtuous, you do the most for your team by getting fully behind the player who is likely to bring the best result. Right now, it's you. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 39, 1, 28 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The best kind of goal to take on today is one that's too big for a single person. Group work is an opportunity for the better angels inside to assemble and fly forward together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). An effective and enjoyable daily routine is a thing of art. You're the type of experimental artist who is willing to try new tools, techniques and approaches until you find the magic.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A glamorous effect is usually the result of a multitude of unglamorous actions. The same thing is true of greatness in any area. High aims are mostly achieved through an accumulation of humble actions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some people bring out your confidence and others your insecurities. There's something to learn from either relationship dynamic, though the lessons in working through insecurity will advance you quicker.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It takes one to know one, but that's not the only way. If you're not "one" and you still want to know, the next best thing is close observation over a long period of time. The research will be a pleasure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have friends with the same talent as you. It is through sharing and a sense of competition that you all grow sharper. You're all one team in the game.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In the same way that successful companies do a regular inventory of the stock, you need to get back in touch with your resources. The only reason you're not using what you have is that you forgot that you have it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Whose heart leaps when you win? Who really wants to see you succeed so much that jealousy is never an issue? Who laughs when you laugh? Get more of these people in your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There were times you chased down the thing you wanted and times you waited for it to come to you. Put your feet up because this is one of the latter times. Your hard-learned patience will serve you well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There was nothing special about the stone that brought down Goliath. It could have been any of hundreds of stones lying around. When bringing down giants, it's all about the aim.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You belong in the light for so many reasons. For starters, you have nothing to hide. In fact, when you're in a place where many can see you, you'll inspire. Also, you'll be protected by a kind of spiritual sunscreen.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Complaining, in and of itself, isn't a powerful motivator of change. A complaint is just a statement. You will contemplate a problem, think about what leverage you might employ and decide on some actions to try.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

P	S	S	T	■	A	B	C	S	■	G	O	N	G	S
R	I	P	E	■	M	O	A	T	■	A	W	A	R	E
I	M	I	N	■	U	S	S	R	■	Z	E	B	R	A
C	O	L	O	R	S	C	H	E	M	E	■	■	■	■
E	N	T	R	E	E	■	■	W	E	B	■	T	S	P
■	■	■	■	A	D	D	S	■	T	O	M	A	T	O
S	O	N	I	C	■	A	N	N	E	■	O	B	O	E
Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	A	C	R	E	P	L	O	T
U	N	T	O	■	M	E	G	A	■	K	E	E	P	S
I	C	A	N	S	O	■	S	A	R	I	■	■	■	■
D	E	L	■	I	T	S	■	■	E	N	A	B	L	E
■	■	■	■	S	E	A	T	I	N	G	P	L	A	N
A	D	O	P	T	■	L	O	S	E	■	L	A	R	D
D	E	N	S	E	■	S	O	N	G	■	U	R	G	E
S	W	E	A	R	■	A	N	T	E	■	S	E	E	D

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

7	8	9	4	6	1	2	5	3
1	2	6	9	3	5	4	7	8
5	4	3	2	7	8	9	1	6
4	5	1	6	9	3	7	8	2
6	9	8	7	5	2	3	4	1
3	7	2	1	8	4	6	9	5
9	1	7	5	2	6	8	3	4
8	6	4	3	1	7	5	2	9
2	3	5	8	4	9	1	6	7

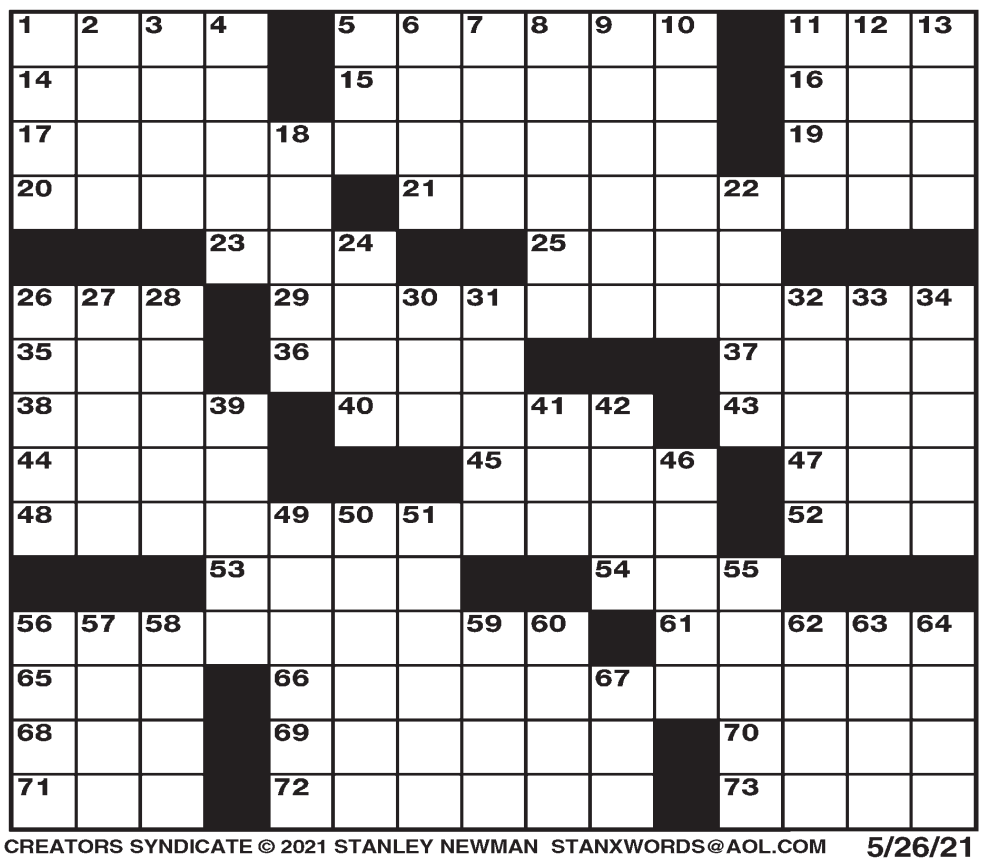
					7			
4		9		8				1
		3	1			8		9
1				3	8			7
	7			4			1	
5			2	7				8
2		6			3	4		
3				5		1		2
			7					

Newsday Crossword

IN THE CABINET by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Courage, informally
5 Numbers on grocery shelves
11 Stoplight shade
14 Three or four
15 Be offended by
16 Top-value blackjack card
17 Basketball strategy
19 That woman
20 Daisylike flower
21 Get ready to start a business
23 Family dog or cat
25 Toledo's lake
26 America's uncle
29 Power from roof panels
35 Org. for expert putters
36 Place in the overhead bin
37 Have the courage
38 Verdi's Egyptian opera
40 On the nose
43 Unwelcome email
44 Plank of a park bench
45 Tablet computer brand
47 Winter road hazard
48 Kuwait, vis-à-vis OPEC
52 Lion's abode
53 Work without __ (live dangerously)
54 Perform on a stage
56 Place side by side
61 Allure in the air
65 Slip up
66 Strenuous physical work
68 Air traffic controller's employer: Abbr.
69 "In spite of that . . ."
70 Make very wet
71 Go by air
72 Reduce
73 Barnyard birds

DOWN
1 __ Strip (Mideast region)
2 Sci-fi airships
3 Outdoor banquet rental
4 Win every game
5 Opposite of post-
6 Basketball officials
7 "That's clear now!"
8 Midpoint
9 Make certain
10 Become a mediator
11 Unwisely quick
12 Twice-heard sound
13 Low in pitch
18 Gown, for one
22 Pine cones, for pines
24 Large shopping bag
26 Muscle twitch
27 Sure-footed
28 __ Vice President (title for Harris)
30 Smoked salmon
31 Stand by for
32 Speedy
33 Prayer before dinner
34 Saudi Arabia neighbor
39 Facing the pitcher
41 Sr. auditor, often
42 "Ciao for now!"
46 Window sticker
49 Tooth layer
50 Update, as a sidewalk
51 Lake spots for "stepping"
55 Discarded stuff
56 Amazon head Bezos
57 Russia's __ Mountains
58 Dental image
59 Centers of planetary systems
60 Lack of difficulty
62 Bassoon relative
63 __ and groan (complain)
64 Vessels like Noah's
67 Ban-__ (synthetic fabric)



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/26/21

Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O
I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O
O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O
I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I
O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I
I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O
O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O
O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	I
I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	O
O	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I
O	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I

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O		I									O
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	O				I			O		I	



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 27 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5125

Foreign words

M	A	P	R	O	R	A	T	A	T	T	A	C	H	E
E	C	R	O	F	E	D	R	U	O	T	N	Y	C	B
N	H	O	H	E	N	H	O	I	P	O	L	L	O	I
R	I	R	S	D	M	O	F	N	R	F	R	A	J	N
O	G	D	E	U	A	C	I	S	O	A	W	U	O	V
U	N	E	E	E	S	L	A	I	E	T	F	P	N	I
T	O	T	H	R	S	I	S	T	D	W	U	A	E	T
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T	E	N	K	N	O	U	O	L	C	N	E	R	I	O
S	R	T	A	E	L	E	A	Z	O	E	R	U	V	R
G	G	E	B	D	G	L	A	C	L	D	R	V	A	B
N	O	S	E	A	A	R	P	A	A	U	N	A	S	I
A	D	S	L	H	P	U	N	H	G	R	A	J	I	L
S	A	U	E	C	O	M	E	L	E	T	T	E	V	D
C	G	P	O	S	T	M	O	R	T	E	M	D	S	A

Ad hoc
Ad lib
Angst
Attache
Au pair
Baksheesh
Chignon
Clique
Cojones
Cul de sac
Czar
Deja vu
Detente
Elan
En masse
En route
Ergo
Fatwa
Fiasco
Gulag
Guru
Halal
Hoi polloi
In situ
In vitro
Omelette
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MENTAL

FROM PAGE 1

and cocaine, but even cigarettes and alcohol."

Prior to the pandemic, Peterson was living out of his car and working as a rideshare driver. He experienced a stroke in March 2020 and narrowly escaped permanent brain damage. During his recovery treatment he began taking a small dose of Zoloft to help regain his motor functions and was shocked to see how his mood stabilized.

He gained trust in the medication and began taking a full therapeutic dose. Now at the age of 50, he is able to escape the up and down cycles of depression that had plagued his entire life.

"In the hospital I was almost inconsolable, the amount of crying I did, the depth of how sad I was and how much I hated myself," said Peterson. "But I'm fine now. I feel productive and my mood is stable."

For Peterson, a lack of trust in the medical establishment prevented him from accessing the support he needed. Other unhoused individuals struggle because they cannot travel to a clinic for care or afford medication. People also shirk away from treatment because of previous bad experiences, cultural barriers, or the stigma associated with these drugs.

Maceri said The People Concern recognizes the many barriers unhoused individuals face in accessing mental health treatment and focuses on meeting clients where they are at.

"Making services more street-based and accessible for people makes a huge difference," said Maceri, adding that his teams of physicians and psychiatrists will deliver services, including mental health medication, directly to encampments.

While Maceri believes that street-based mental health interventions should be scaled up across LA, he realizes that this is addressing the symptoms of the problem and not the root.

Fully tackling the mental health crisis and its relation to the homelessness crisis will require building a new infrastructure around mental health. One potential model being studied by the L.A. Department of Mental Health is the community based mental health system used in Trieste, Italy.

"It's built on what they call 'radical hospitality' — this idea that there is a sense of purpose, place and belonging for people," said Marceri. "So it's not about trying to institutionalize everybody, but it's really the opposite. It's about giving meaningful daily activities and enough wraparound services, so folks don't just live, but they thrive."

Clara@smdp.com

WIND

FROM PAGE 1

The site could be finalized next month and could be put up for lease next year.

The announcement is part of President Joe Biden's plan to create 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030.

The new projects — if approved and built — would provide a major expansion of offshore wind power in the U.S. Currently, there are just two working offshore wind farms — off Block Island in Rhode Island and off Virginia — but more than two dozen others are in development.

The projects will require several stages of approval — from an early review by the Coastal Commission to federal and state environmental reviews after a lease sale, said Sandy Louey of the California Energy Commission.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, said he included $20 million in his revised budget proposal this month that would help expedite environmental review of the projects.

"We value process but not the paralysis of a process that takes years and years and years that can be done in a much more focused way," Newsom said.

Environmental groups — including Audubon and the Natural Resources Defense Council — issued statements in support of the project with the caveat that fish, seabirds and marine mammals are protected.

The Environmental Defense Center, which was founded in Santa Barbara after a massive offshore oil spill in 1969, echoed that sentiment, calling for minimal harm to species and coastal communities.

"We must remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure offshore wind is a net positive for California by also implementing robust environmental protections," Kristen Hislop said in a statement.

Fishermen, however, are concerned that construction and operation of projects on this scale could disrupt the ecosystem and that they were not consulted on the impact the locations could have on their industry.

"We feel we've not been invited to have a seat at the table. We feel we're on the menu," said Mike Conroy, executive director of The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

The area off Morro Bay is a fishery for tuna and sword fish and he's concerned that the floating turbines could change migratory patterns of whales and other species. If blue and humpback whales, for example, are forced closer to shore, it could bring closures of Dungeness crab fishing.

The areas were chosen by agreement with the state, the Department of Interior, which oversees the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the Department of Defense, which conducts training and weapons testing off the coast.

The agreement comes two weeks after the Biden administration announced a $3 billion project off the coast of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts that would power 400,000 homes with 84 turbines. The 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind project would be the first utility-scale wind power development in federal waters.

Another proposed project, Ocean Wind, off New Jersey would create 1,100-megawatts of power.

Those wind farms would be dwarfed by the scale of the California projects.

The California wind farms would produce a combined 4.6 gigawatts, with the Morro Bay operation providing two-thirds of that output. Currently, wind turbines on mountain passes and in the deserts across the state can produce 5.5 gigawatts, according the California Wind Energy Association.

Unlike the East Coast wind farms where turbines are stationary, the California projects will employ a newer floating technology because the continental shelf drops off more quickly in the Pacific than in the Atlantic Ocean.

California set a goal to produce all electricity by 2045 through renewable energy resources and zero-carbon generating facilities.

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DBA

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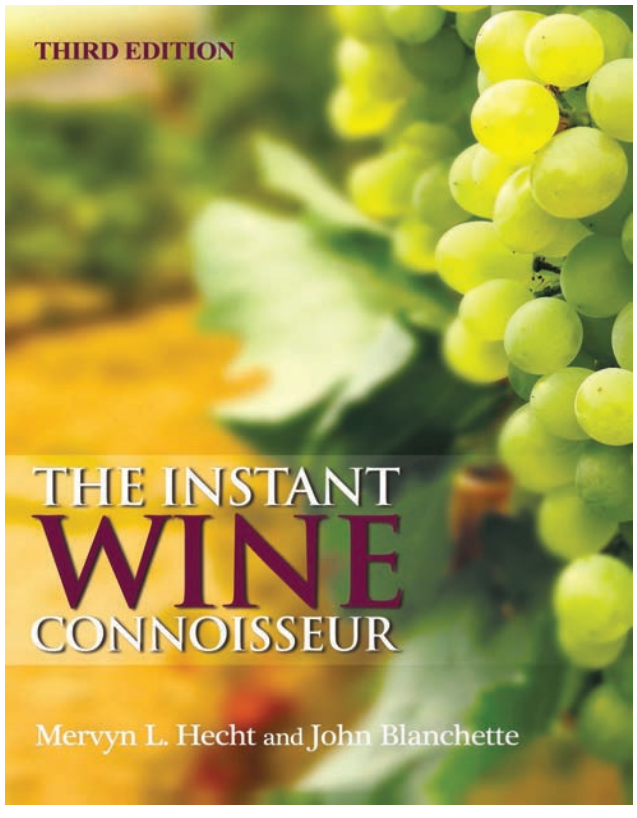
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